



SEPTEMBER 2011

President's Corner

BCGT Board 2011-2012

- President:**
Shalini Parekh
- Vice President/Treasurer:**
Keri Bowman
- Secretary:**
Jacqui Nguyen
- Programs:**
Denise Oetinger
- Membership:**
Beth Chernik
- Publicity:**
Janet Wanca
- Newsletter:**
Amanda Hines
- Website:**
Bhama Winkler
- School Rep Coordinator:**
Melissa Paris
- Advocacy:**
Katherine Logue
- Hospitality:**
Rick Kanak

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ask Julie!	Page 2
BCGT Happenings	Page 3
Kids Corner	Page 5
Resources	Page 6

Welcome Back to School!

On a recent visit to the IAGC website I was struck by the range of activities undertaken by this pioneer organization. The Illinois Association for Gifted Children is a dynamic organization, which has been a voice for gifted issues in Illinois, where gifted education still does not have a state mandate. Of course, BCGT has been an affiliate member of IAGC for several years, and has been its contemporary almost since its inception. Why am I now looking at them with renewed admiration? Primarily, because of a new strand that I am seeing in education, and happily in gifted education; a new focus on collaboration, an effort to reinvent, nay, regenerate, the paradigms of gifted education.

This collaborative spirit is reflected in this year's fascinating lineup of speakers, at the annual IAGC convention, to be held February 5-7th in Chicago, this year the headlining speaker is Bruce Mau. Co-Founder of **Massive Change Network**, he has been lauded for harnessing the 21st Century Skills that we must foster in our gifted learners as we prepare them to face future global issues. Underscoring Bruce Mau's message, on the importance of talented individuals who are coming together to make a difference in the world, will be the screening of the acclaimed and thought provoking new documentary film by David Osterberg, 'The Plan'. <http://www.sfinternational.se/film/the-plan-1>

Our BCGT Board, last year was also a wonderful collaborative effort. We had professionals in various fields, who graciously volunteered their skills and time. Some of them, like June Cramer, Sonali Majmudar, Kathleen Battle and Mary Jo Kunzman have moved on, or will continue to help out when they can, and we are extremely grateful for their work. But we are also excited to welcome some terrific new members, all with busy portfolios of their own, who are joining the present Board. Jacqui Nguyen, Melissa Paris, Janet Wanca, Beth Chernik and Rick Kanak, we are honored by your presence. Our Board, led by our Program Chair, Denise Oetinger, is currently busy finalizing an invigorating mix of programs for this year. Please do visit our website [BCGT.org](http://www.bcgto.org) for all the details.

It is my sincere hope that we can all find new ways of pooling our ideas, energies and resources, paving the way for this collaboration, towards our most precious resource, our children and their education. As John W. Whitehead said,

" Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see "

Shalini Parekh, BCGT President

Ask Julie!



by Julie Luck Jensen

*Director of Extended Services
Barrington CUSD 220*

...

Dear Julie,

My children, Esmeralda, a kindergartener, and Trigger, a third grader, have been in school a week, and I still do not know if they are in the gifted program. They both tell me everything they are being taught now is easy, so I would like to speed up the process that will place them in gifted classes. Can you give them the gifted test tomorrow?

Please call me tonight,
Times A' Wastin'

Dear Times,

I understand you are anxious for the best possible learning opportunities for your children. I'll explain a little about our district placement timeline, but I hope you will also visit the Extended Services website for more information. That site can be accessed under the heading "Parent Services" on the district website, www.barrington220.org.

Please know that our district is committed to meeting the needs of all students. We offer a

continuum of services for high ability students ranging from differentiated instruction in the regular classroom to self-contained classes. The services offered are based on the data obtained from formal and informal assessments. All teachers spend some time at the beginning of the year assessing the instructional levels of their students. While there is no official test for giftedness, teachers can often determine if students are performing above grade level by doing such things as looking at records from previous years, administering standardized tests, and observing the student's behavior with age peers.

I frequently remind parents to tell their children that much of the classroom work offered in the beginning of the year is a review. If children are offended by what they perceive to be "baby work", they often don't take the work seriously and they can make careless errors. Teachers then assume there are gaps in a student's learning, and they are hesitant to offer more challenging curriculum. Parents assume the teachers don't understand their children's needs and become upset. If parents, teachers and children all understand the review situation, they will have a more successful start to the new school year!

Each fall, our district offers an achievement test and a cognitive abilities test for students in grades 3-6. The scores from these assessments are used, along with other classroom information, to determine which students will have their learning needs better met in Extended Resource Reading and/or Math. Final

identification usually occurs late in October after all the scores have been received and district norms calculated. Extended classes are considered "replacement" classes as they take the place of the daily regular ed classroom reading or math instruction. Extended classes offer instruction two years above grade level to identified students.

Part of the district's strategic plan includes ongoing emphasis on differentiation. Those students who are performing above level, but who are not ready for Extended class placement, can be offered adjusted curriculum and instruction in the regular classrooms. The Extended Resource teachers and I work with classroom teachers to recognize and support students with high potential ability. We share instructional strategies and materials regularly for grades K-5.

Please give your children a chance to become comfortable in their new classrooms. Allow teachers some time to get to know your children and make informed decisions as to the best ways to engage and challenge them. In the meantime, enjoy your own learning experiences with your children at the library, at the nature center, and in museums. The background experiences you provide will give your children a great foundation for making connections with their academic learning. You and the teachers can work together to create rich learning environments for your children.

Best wishes for a collaborative, productive school year!

Julie

BCGT Happenings

The BCGT is busy looking for opportunities to further advance our District's commitment to gifted education. Please check the BCGT website, as well as flyers that will be distributed in the students' backpacks, once we solidify dates for future BCGT events.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING BCGT EVENTS

Thursday, September 29 – Tentative BCGT Kickoff Event

Watch our website for more details.

Friday, November 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m. – Family Game Night

Join us for pizza and games at BCGT's most popular event of the year. Held at the Barrington Area Library.

Monday, November 7, 6:00-7:00 p.m. – BCGT Children's Book Club

Open to 4th-7th graders. We will be reading *Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi. See flyer at the end of the newsletter. Hosted by Georgia Nelson at the Barrington Area Library.

Wednesday, November 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Evening with Julie Luck Jensen

Held at the Barrington Area Library.

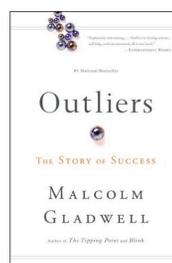
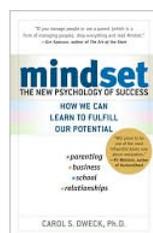
Visit our web site at www.bcgt.org for more information and to register for any of these programs.



PHOTOS ABOVE FROM THE
SPRING 2011 SCIENCE NIGHT

Some Books You Might Want to Check Out!

- 1) **Mindset** by Carol Dweck
- 2) **Outliers** by Malcolm Gladwell
- 3) **Parenting Gifted Kids: Tips for Raising Happy and Successful Children** by James Delisle
- 4) **Some of My Best Friends Are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers from Preschool to Highschool** by Judith Wynn Halsted



BOOK REVIEW

by **Amanda Hines**

BCGT Newsletter Editor

...

The book Early Gifts: Recognizing and Nurturing Children's Talents is a compendium of essays by leading experts that focuses on recognizing and developing gifted talents within our children. The book is edited by Paula Olszewski-Kubilius and Lisa Limburg-Weber, both from Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development, and Steven Pfeiffer from Duke University's Talent Identification Program.

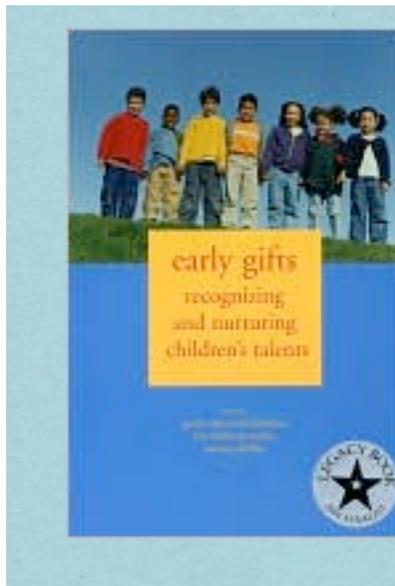
Gifted children, like all children, are unique and most show exceptional ability in only one or two areas. The book is organized according to the "multiple intelligences" concept proposed by Howard Gardner. The book focuses a chapter each on seven different areas of giftedness:

- 1) Science
- 2) Language Arts
- 3) Math
- 4) Music
- 5) Dramatic Arts
- 6) Visual Arts
- 7) Athletic Talent

Each chapter is meant to provide an introduction to what young children need to develop their unique talent(s).

There are four primary questions that are answered for each of the areas of giftedness:

- 1) How do experts in this area test for and define giftedness and talent?
- 2) How are young gifted children in this area first recognized?
- 3) What specific family and community resources can help the young gifted child develop his or her talents in this area?
- 4) What stages of development does talent in each domain traverse through and what are the significant influences that promote progression through these stages?



Early Gifts: Recognizing and Nurturing Children's Talents: 1st edition (2003)

Edited by:

Paula Olszewski-Kubilius

Lisa Limburg-Weber

Steven Pfeiffer

In addition to providing a summary of how to recognize and develop each of the talent areas, the experts provide additional resources for further study.

The final two chapters of the book focus on the relationship between families and schools and the psychological considerations in raising a healthy gifted child. The authors stress the importance of partnership and collaboration between families and schools to meet the unique learning needs of our gifted children. Specifically, they mention the benefit of partnership in addressing specific issues such as:

- 1) How to best support the gifted child's need for challenging material
- 2) When to accelerate a child
- 3) Choosing supplementary activities to complement school programs
- 4) Social issues with peers
- 5) Underachievement

Finally, while studies show that intellectually gifted youth have better than average social adjustment they do have unique vulnerabilities to social and emotional difficulties. There are four principles which Steven Pfeiffer believes are key to raising a gifted child:

- 1) Promoting balance in your child's life by not focusing too much on the special talent to the neglect of other important developmental experiences.
- 2) Normalize your child's experiences by providing your child with a range of social activities that are age and developmentally appropriate.
- 3) Setting and enforcing limits
- 4) Encouraging social intelligence to ensure your child develops skills to be courteous, a good listener, likable, helpful, trustworthy, a team player, and empathetic.

While the book does have the feel of a series of professional journal articles, it is enjoyable and quick to read. The organization of the book makes it easy to pick and choose the chapters that pertain to your child's specific talents and the additional resources referenced are particularly helpful.

This book can be checked out from the Barrington Area Library.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows-Movie 7, Part 2



by **Mira Parekh**
6E Prairie Middle School

Earlier last week I was cleaning out my room, when I came across one of my dad's magazines, *The Economist*.

Normally in this magazine you would expect to find an article on the economy or politics, which wouldn't be of any interest to me. But there was something that caught my eye. I found an article on my favorite movie series, Harry Potter!

The author of *The Economist* article, Ramin Setoodeh, essentially implied that new Harry Potter movie was, "deadly boring". I strongly disagree. How can the world's most all-time grossing film, *Deathly Hallows part 2*, that ticketed more sales than all 22 James Bond classics combined, be *deadly boring*?

Unlike the critique given by *The Economist*, I felt the movie more than lived up to its expectations. There are so many plots, sub-plots, and even sub-sub-plots I was amazed that director and producers were able to adhere to the original plot. Although I thought it was exceptional, a lay observer, who was not immersed in the Harry Potter series or culture, might not

understand what was going on, for they forgot to reveal many details.

This movie appealed to me because it was enchanting. It is almost like you are being transported into a magical realm, where you fulfill prophecies and battle deadly enemies. Fans all over the world could not wait to sink their teeth into this suspenseful and gripping movie with a classic clash of good vs. evil.

All in all, when so much is wrapped around the expectations of this movie, some people are bound to feel let down. And others, well... maybe not so much! The Harry Potter series has captivated children all over, and the finale was a magical end to this series!

Resources for Gifted Education

1. National Association for Gifted Children - www.nagc.org
2. Hoagies Gifted Education - www.hoagiesgifted.org
3. Davidson Institute for Talent Development - www.davidsongifted.org
4. Northwestern Center for Talent Development - www.ctd.northwestern.edu

Managing Stress in Honors Students

by **Rochelle Schulman**

Barrington Youth and Family Services

As an honors/extended student, your child faces a higher level of challenges and expectations than a typical student. There are the pressures of advanced coursework in school, extra homework, projects, family performance expectations, extra-curricular activities, and the reality that being gifted just makes them somewhat different than other students. How can you tell the signs that your child is experiencing undue stress? There are several key indicators to watch.

- Headache
- Sleeping disturbances
- Difficulty in concentrating
- Upset stomach
- Short temper, anxiety, changes in mood
- Bouts of crying or sadness
- Unusual changes in behavior - bedwetting, hair twisting, etc.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, performance based stress can lead to overall poor health including cardiovascular issues, muscular-skeletal issues, psychological issues including depression, and an increased chance that your child will look for “quick stress relievers” such as tobacco, alcohol or drugs. The academy recommends creating a stress plan along with your child to assist them in dealing with stress in their lives and to facilitate open discussions.

There are times, however, when parents alone are unable to manage the stress or pressures surrounding their students. It's logical to go to a doctor for a sickness or a pain, but when you're dealing with emotions and feelings, or unusual behaviors, it isn't as easy to know where to turn. Barrington Youth and Family

BARRINGTON YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Rochelle Schulman, LCSW, LMFT, BCD, CRADC - Executive Director

Rochelle Schulman has served as the Executive Director of Barrington Youth and Family Services since 1991. She has a Masters of Social Work from Loyola University of Chicago and a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from Northwestern University.

Prior to joining the BYFS staff, Ms. Schulman was employed as the Director of Social Services from 1985 to 1991 at Christopher House, Greenview with casework, supervisory and administrative responsibilities. Her background includes previous employment with the Illinois State Psychiatric Institute, Christopher House, Lakeside, United Charities, Northern Family Services and the North Area Office of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.



Services (BYFS) can be the helping hand you need to tackle your student's concerns. BYFS offers professional counseling services to help your child accomplish his or her goals while actually enjoying the process.

What is Professional Counseling?

Professional counseling is an opportunity for your student and/or family to openly discuss problems and challenges in a supportive and confidential environment, without criticism or judgment. All of your discussions with our counselors will happen privately at the BYFS offices.

Professional counseling can help your student learn strategies to tackle problems head on, gain greater control over feelings and thoughts, make positive changes in self-esteem, and improve his/her ability to communicate about feelings and needs. Positive outcomes are many: stress reduction, personal growth, closer family relationships, better decision making, and positive

movement toward accomplishing goals.

BYFS provides counseling, outreach and prevention services that meet the social, psychological and emotional needs of Barrington families. Staff members are licensed professionals with expertise in depression, ADD, grief and loss, anger management, stress, eating disorders, substance abuse, marriage and parental counseling and divorce mediation. The agency accepts most insurance and a sliding fee scale is available. No one is denied care due to an inability to pay. Services are available in both English and Spanish.

BYFS is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit social service agency. For more than 38 years, the agency has serviced Barrington area residents in Barrington, Cuba, Dundee and Ela Townships, within the boundaries of Barrington Community Unit School District #220. Contact BYFS at 847.381.0345 for more information.

A Big Thanks to our Lifetime Members

We welcome our new members who joined this year!

Evelyn Ackermann
Shona & Jagbir Ahuja
Allegretti family
Rob and Joanne Aleksick
David and Lisa Appleby
Sanjay Asija
Greg and Beth Bach
Jim and Gail Bach
Jeff and Deb Bakal
Donna Bapst
Dean and Sue Barsness
Battle family
Tim and Diane Bergan
Frank Bernero and
June Cramer
Bochniak family
Manjari Bose
John and Keri Bowman
Bill and Joan Bowyer
Dave and Melissa Buckley
Cai family
Casaletto family
Susan Cascino
Steb and Pam Chandor
Raja and Pooja Chatterji
Ningfang Chen
Callanan family
Chappell family
Chernik family
Canary Chia
Chmiel family
Jeff and Lisa Church
Civitello family
Clifford family
Kathleen and Sean Connolly
Conrado family
Pat and Julie Corey
Kenneth and Kim Corless
Crandall family
Joe Davey
DeClerck family
Steve and Linda Divito
Donnelly family
Bill and Teri Doran
Parag and Dulari Doshi
Doucette family
Sandy Dowdy
Laura Durden
Edels family
Naim and Cris Elias
Fritz family
Mark Elliot and Michele
Perl's
Featherstone family
Fitzpatrick family
Mukesh and Nita Gangwal
Butch and Suzi Gavars
Siddarth Gehlaut

Mary and Jose George
Ed and Doris Gierlach
John and Trina Gizel
Graham family
Bill and Linda Griffin
Irfan Hafiz and
Nausheen Din
Hancock family
Harold and Kelly Henry
Hap and Susan Hewes
Amanda and Kurt Hines
Ron and Carol Hinkle
Joe and Kim Holland
Holmes family
Bill and Cathy Howes
Zhihui Huang and
Shuhong Lin
Hubbard family
Tom and Anna Huber
Richard Hucker
Peter and Linda Jakopin
Robert and Sue Johnson
Satya Kanimalli
Prathik Kandimalla
Vish and Swarup Karande
Deepa Kartha
Rich and Kathy Kasiurak
Leah and Jeff Kazaglis
Brian and Jeanne Kelly
Joe and Mary Klest
W. John Kolasinski
Kortendick family
Jody Kubala
Kunzman family
Lafon family
Jennifer Lagoni
Jack and Karen Lambert
Kurt and Carol Laning
Bill and Juli LaRocque
Lebovic family
June Lee
Sue Lenz
Stacey Lidbury
Jonathan Nyland and
Katherine Logue
Terri Longo
Sonali Majmudar
Karen and Dennis Malec
Massimino family
Sandy and Jenine Mathias
May family
McHugh family
McKellin family
John and Sue McVickers
Venkata Madana
Ajay and Priti Mehta
Ray and Chrisse Mena
Joe and Ann Messer

Messerschmidt family
Teri and Tim Meyer
Pete Miceli
Paul and Lori Morin
Kathy and Scott Moseler
Leena Nayak
Nepomuceno family
Jacqui and Tri Nguyen
Pin Ni and Weidi Lu
Steve & Dianne Nicoletti
Nikolich family
Ken and Jean Nowak
Shane and Lori Nugent
Patrick & Karen O'Brien
Oetinger family
Olson family
Peter and Anne Ordway
Arthur and Eva Ostrowski
Palm family
Shalini Parekh
Paris family
Tony and Mary Pecora
Kathy Pfister
Priola family
Quig family
Ragдона family
Riter family
Dragana and Val Rajic
Ramakrishnan family
Lauren and Steve Ramel
Reddy family
Robbins family
Deb Robinson
Steve and Lisa Rothman
Amita Sachdev
Betsy and Norm Scott
Hemali Shah
Thomas Silberg and
Catherine Klima
Singh family
Sivakumar family
Solberg family
Randy and Kathy Spiess
Paul Stahlberg
Robert and Kekti Steffen
Sturgix family
Adeline Sun
Joseph Swanson
Maria Sweeney
Robert and Paula Thomas
Thondavadi family
Thorndyke family
Ahmed and Nimi Tobaa
Lupita Tokarski
Judy Kosarek Tyler
Mike & Kathleen Uhran
Van Marwijk Kooy family
Deborah Varwig

Manju and Indu Vence
Robert and Melinda Vlk
Michael and Kathy Vu
Mitch Walker and
Sarah Hoban
Janet and Brian Wanca
Lei Wang
Stephanie Wang-Tailon
Winkler family
Workman family
Young Mi Woo
Libby Yang
Bradley Yu
Jeffrey Zhang
Weiming Zhou

2011-2012 Annual Members

Aievoli Family
Henry Borkon
Layton Family
Li Family
Johnny Palumbo



Barrington Council for the Gifted and Talented

Please Support Us!

BCGT is a non-profit organization of parents and educators whose common purpose is to support gifted education in District 220 by serving as a resource and advocate for gifted students, their families and faculty.

Your membership enables BCGT to:

- Host nationally and locally renowned speakers in the field of gifted education
- Provide parent and family networking opportunities such as coffees and family game nights
- Issue classroom grants: In the past, in addition to fulfilling the smaller, specific wishes of teachers, BCGT made the largest single donation ever, \$3,000, to help fund a pilot program at Sunny Hill which helps target gifted students in early elementary school
- Support legislative advocacy for gifted funding
- Publish and maintain BCGT's newsletter and website www.BCGT.org
- E-mail notification of programs, meetings and special events

We offer a District 220 Lifetime Membership! For your \$100 donation, you receive BCGT membership benefits for long as your children attend school in District 220. In addition to reduced membership fees, lifetime members will receive special recognition for their support on the BCGT website and in the newsletter.

Join Us Now!

Membership form is on the back of this page.

Visit us on the web at www.BCGT.org

BCGT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Barrington Council for the Gifted and Talented

2011-2012 Membership Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: (required for us to send advance notice for BCGT events, meetings and reminders)

Your email address will be kept private and will be only be used for communication with you about BCGT related events.

Schools where your children are currently enrolled:

- Countryside Elementary
- Grove Elementary
- Hough Elementary
- Lines Elementary
- North Barrington Elementary
- Rose Elementary
- Roslyn Elementary
- Sunny Hill Elementary

- Prairie Middle School
- Station Middle School

- Barrington High School

- Other _____

Please select a membership option:

\$25 Yearly Family Membership

\$100 Lifetime Membership
(You will receive BCGT member benefits for as long as your children attend school in District 220.)

One time donations also appreciated:

Donation

Send your tax-deductible contribution, payable to BCGT, and your membership form to:

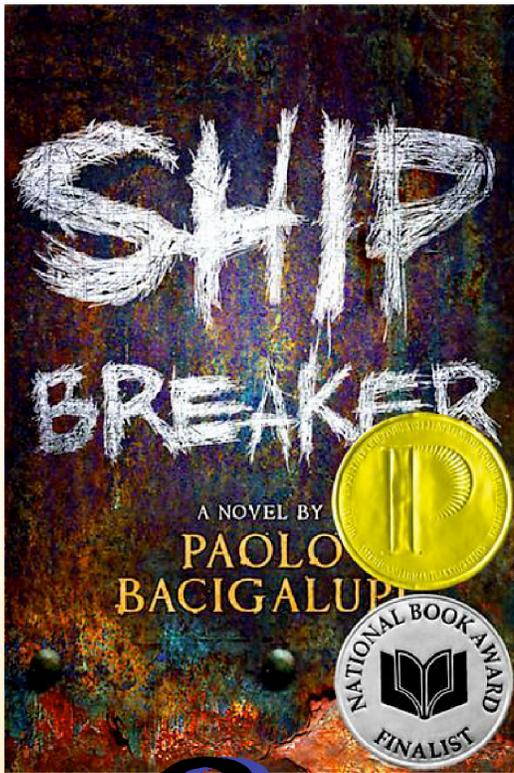
Beth Chernik
BCGT Membership
437 Elm Road,
Barrington, IL 60010

Comments or Suggestions:

Please contact me, I would like to get more involved in BCGT

Visit us on the web at www.BCGT.org

BCGT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



In a world in which society has stratified, fossil fuels have been consumed, and the seas have risen and drowned coastal cities, Nailer scavenges beached tankers for scrap metals on the Gulf Coast trying to "make quota" and stay alive another day. After a brutal hurricane passes over, Nailer and his friend Pima stumble upon the wreck of a luxurious clipper ship. It's filled with valuable goods—a "Lucky Strike" that could make them rich, if only they can find a safe way to cash it in. Amid the wreckage, a girl barely clings to life. Should he slit the girl's throat and sell her for parts or take a chance and help her?

When every day is a fight for survival, what does it mean to hope? to be human?

BCGT Book Club

Here's a book club that will make your mouth water - there will be cookies to go with the conversation. And the conversation? It will be fantastic.

This is the chance you've been waiting for to talk about great books and fantastic ideas with like-minded bibliophiles.



November 7
BAL - 6:00 - 7:00

**If you are in 4th - 7th grade, register online -
at the BCGT website
for the coolest book club in town!**